

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/088 W

-----018028 290334Z /64

P R 281820Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7464
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM ES
SUBJ: GOES ALLEGES LARGE-SCALE TERRORIST ACTIONS IN RURAL AREAS
DURING HOLY WEEK

1. MEDIA MARCH 27 AND 28 SATURATED WITH STORIES AND PHOTOS OF GOES LABELED "BLOODY TERRORIST UPRISING" IN RURAL AREAS IN AND AROUND SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN, DEPARTMENT OF CUSCATLAN (APPROX. 20 MILES NE OF SAN SALVADOR).
2. MOST INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE COMES FROM GOES OR GOES-CONTROLLED SOURCES, BUT INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND NUMBER OF EMBASSIES (INCLUDING U.S.) HAVE BEEN INVITED BY GOES TO VISIT AREA FOR FIRSTHAND CONFIRMATION.
3. PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY OF INFORMATION, COL. FLORES LIMA, RELEASED LENGTHLY STATEMENT MARCH 27 GIVING
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ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT IN GRAPHIC DETAIL. MAJOR POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

4. BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 AND CONTINUING THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 24, ELEMENTS OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) AND ITS TWO MAJOR COMPONENTS, CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF SALVADORAN RURAL WORKERS (FECCAS) AND UNION OF RURAL WORKERS (UTC), ESTIMATED BETWEEN ONE THOUSAND TO TWO THOUSAND, MOVED INTO

NUMBER OF SMALL VILLAGES (CANTONS) IN SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN AREA. GROUPS, WHICH FLORES LIMA LINKED TO CATHOLIC CHURCH THROUGHOUT HIS STATEMENT, WERE ALLEGEDLY ARMED WITH MACHETES, SHOTGUNS, PISTOLS AND HEAVY OBJECTS. PURPOSE OF ACTION WAS TO TERRORIZE "HUMBLE PEASANT WORKERS" WHO HAD REFUSED TO JOIN FORCES WITH "SUBVERSIVES OF FECCAS, UTC AND BPR". FLORES LIMA STATED SUBVERSIVE GROUPS KILLED AS YET UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CAMPESINOS (MEDIA ESTIMATED 8 TO 10), TOOK SEVERAL PRISONERS, WOUNDED MANY OTHERS, BURNED HOUSES AND FARMS, SLAUGHTERED LIVESTOCK AND IN SOME CASES EVEN FORCED FAMILIES OF DECEASED CAMPESINOS TO EAT THE BODIES OF THE DEAD CAMPESINOS. STATEMENT (AND ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS) INDICATES HUNDREDS OF CAMPESINOS HAD BEEN FORCED TO FLEE THE AREA "WITHOUT CLOTHING, WITHOUT FOOD AND WITHOUT HOPE". FLORES LIMA SAID THAT GOES SECURITY FORCES HAD BEGUN TO MOVE INTO AREA OCCUPIED BY TERRORISTS "WITH PRUDENCE" TO RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER TO THIS REGION DISTURBED BY "RELIGIOUS TERRORISM". MILITARY HOSPITAL UNITS AND THE RED CROSS WERE AT THE SCENE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

5. "LA CRONICA" HAS BRIEF STORY ON INCIDENT THAT BEGINS BY ALLEGING PROBLEMS INITIATED BY GOES-SUPPORTED RURAL GROUP, ORDEN, BUT IN SAME STORY CARRIES VERY ABBREVIATED VERSION OF FLORES LIMA'S STATEMENT ATTRIBUTING BLAME TO FECCAS, UTC AND BPR. TWO OTHER PAPERS, WHILE CARRYING FULL GOES STATEMENT, INDICATED VIOLENCE COULD HAVE BEEN RESULT OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ORDEN AND FECCAS, UTC, BPR GROUP FOR CONTROL OF THIS REGION.

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6. COMMENT. GOES GOING ALL OUT TO PUBLICIZE SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN INCIDENT AS SOLID PROOF OF CHURCH-INSTIGATED OR AT LEAST CONDONED TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS. THERE IS USUAL SPECULATION THAT ACTION WAS ENGINEERED BY GOES IN SOME FASHION TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MARCH 17 INCIDENT (SEE SAN SALVADOR 1336) AND/OR LAY GROUNDWORK IN LOCAL AND WORLD MEDIA FOR NECESSARY ACTION BY SECURITY FORCES TO CONDUCT ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY BPR, FECCAS AND UTC GROUPS. LATTER SPECULATION STRENGTHENED BY REPORTS THAT SEVERAL SMALL VILLAGES STILL BEING OCCUPIED BY SUBVERSIVE FORCES AND RESIDENTS CALLING ON GOES TO RESCUE THEM. EMBASSY HAS NO SOLID INFORMATION AT PRESENT TO CONTRADICT GOES VERSION OF INCIDENT BUT EMBOFFS CONTACTING CHURCH, RED CROSS, CAMPESINOS, OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, AS WELL AS GOES OFFICIALS, FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS OR OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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